

What is claimed is:

Sub
A1
1. A computer-implemented method for aggregating and
expressing geographically-linked data provided by a plurality
of observers, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an interactive map capable of receiving
location and associated data over the Internet from said
plurality of observers;

b) receiving a first location and first associated data
from a first observer;

c) storing said location and said first associated data
in a database as data records;

d) receiving a second location and second associated
data from a second observer;

e) repeating steps c) and d) with said second location
and second associated data;

f) receiving a spatial query from a user specifying at
least one location on said interactive map; and

g) providing the data records associated with the user-
specified at least one location;

whereby data records received from the plurality of
observers may be stored according to geographical location
and retrieved for study according to a geographical-based
query.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of
translating said first location to one or more map coordinate
points; and wherein said step of storing said first location

21. A computer-implemented method for collecting data from at least one of a plurality of points of interest, the location of the one point being initially undetermined, the collected data being indicative of an event occurring at the one point of interest, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing at least one geographically referenced map for receiving a mark indicative of the relative position of the one point of interest, the one map including at least one reference points whose geographic coordinates are known;

b) processing the relative position of the one point of interest with respect to the one reference point to provide geographic coordinates of the one point of interest; and

c) associating the geographic coordinates with the data related to the one point of interest.

22. A computer-implemented method for facilitating the collection and inputting of data to a centrally disposed database by a plurality of data gatherers by use of a network which is accessible from points within a geographic area, the data being indicative of an event occurring at one of a plurality of points of interest within the geographic area, the location of the plurality of points of interest being initially undetermined, said method comprising the steps of:

a) downloading over the network upon request of at least one of the plurality of data gatherers at least one geographically referenced map to the one data gatherer, the

